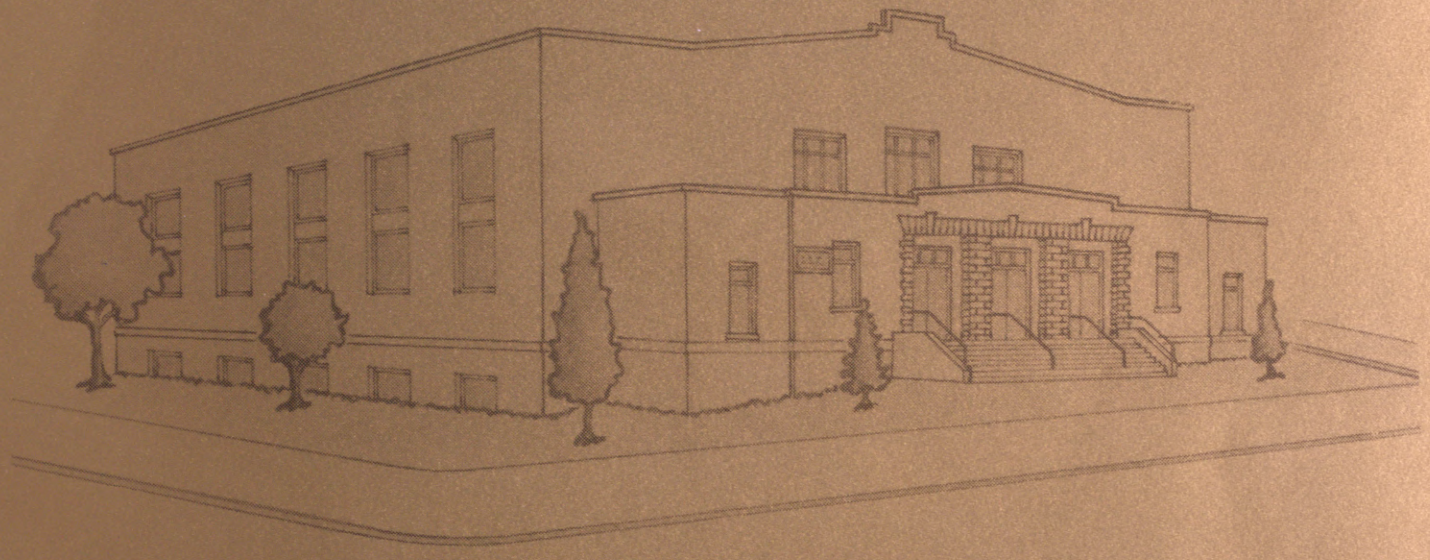
# THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

189 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.



*FIFTY YEARS ON THE MOVE*

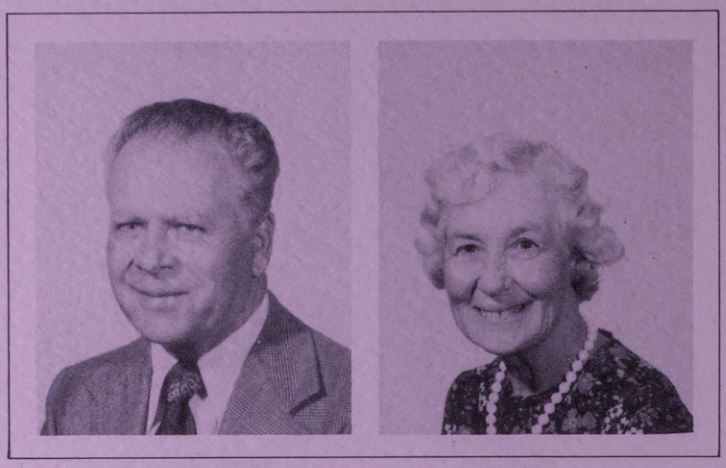
*1928 - 1978*

*"WITH CHRIST IN THE CENTRE"*

The History of

# METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

1928 - 1978



*Rev. & Mrs. Clayton*

## *A word from our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

Greetings!

It is with praise to God that I write to you in this brief history of the Metropolitan Tabernacle concerning its fiftieth anniversary.

From the year of its inception when that first group of visionary believers, together with the Rev. W.M. Robertson, met to worship, right down to this present day, God has seen fit to bless this work.

True, there have been trials and testings, and even some heart break; but throughout these fifty years, we have been privileged to be a sound evangelical voice in this lower mainland area. God has also led us to reach into homes up and down the coast and far into the interior by means of radio with His gospel. In addition to this, many of our people have been called into service here at home and abroad: thus again, our testimony has been enlarged. We give thanks to a loving heavenly Father for His sustaining grace and blessing.

The fiftieth year is the Jubilee Year. It is to be a year of great joy, thanksgiving and restoration. We invite you to enter with us into its fullness.

Pray with us that the Name of the Lord will continue to be magnified and souls blessed in the Tabernacle right up to His glorious appearing for His people.

Sincerely,
W. Clayton,
Pastor.

**Author's Note**

As one who attended the opening services of the work and later was active in the Sunday School, Young People, and Board, I have a strong personal connection with much that has taken place.

The following is my own view and recollection of the history of these fifty years with much reference to annual reports, minutes and records of the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

Many participants are mentioned, others perhaps who should be are not, but I have tried my best to outline the story of this church which has meant so much to so many.

James R. Wilson

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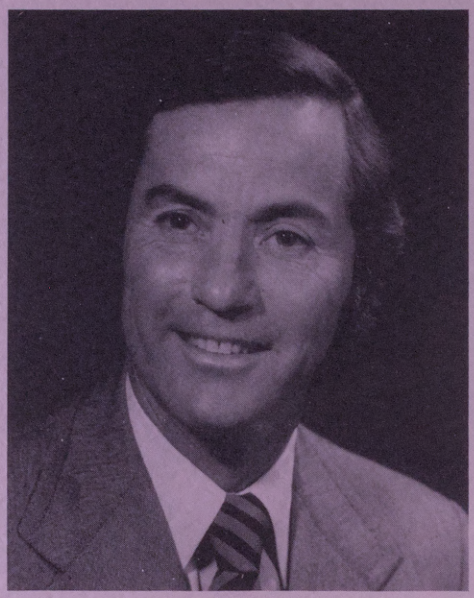


Province of British Columbia
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

February 15, 1978

On behalf of the government and the people of British Columbia I am pleased to extend best wishes to the Metropolitan Tabernacle on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The church, even in these changing times, remains an inspirational and comforting element in society. It is a tribute to the Metropolitan Tabernacle that it has been able to fill this important role for its congregation over the last 50 years.

You have my best wishes for another successful 50 years.

Bill Bennett.

W. R. Bennett
Premier

Parliament Buildings Victoria British Columbia V8V 4R3

VANCOUVER
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOHN J. VOLRICH
MAYOR

CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA
V5Y1V4

I would like to extend to the Metropolitan Tabernacle and its congregation my congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Tabernacle this year.

I understand that the first services were held on July 15, 1928 conducted by the Reverend W. M. Robertson who was its Minister until he retired in 1962, followed by Reverend William Clayton who has been the Pastor for the past fifteen years. These are, indeed, examples of service and dedication which are worthy of special note. The Metropolitan Tabernacle has been an important part of our community in the past and I wish it every success in the future in its important mission and ministry.

Jack Volrich
MAYOR

## I. The Founder

In Clydebank, Scotland, on August 18, 1883, William McAllister Robertson was born. There were three boys and one girl in the typical Scottish presbyterian home. Tragedy struck when at the age of one, William lost his mother. At an early age he started to work in Singer Sewing Machine Factory in Glasgow. He soon became involved in the Labour movement so strong in the Scottish industrial centres. He found himself an aggressive candidate of Socialism and an enemy of the Gospel of Christ.

Yet God's Spirit was dealing with him! In his early twenties he attended a meeting at the Tent Hall, Glasgow, where the Scottish evangelist, John McNeill, was preaching. While the last verse of the closing hymn was being sung, he made his way to the front and was wondrously converted.

"Just as I am — Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

Following his conversion he became a strong witness to his Christian faith. He, like Saul of Tarsus, was once an enemy of the cross of Christ, until subdued by divine grace, he took the place of a repentant sinner at the Saviour's feet. Redeemed and regenerated, eternal verities became of outstanding importance and, in words that burned and glowed, he sought to make others know the realities of the Christian faith.

Mr. Robertson enrolled in the Bible Training Institute of Glasgow and successfully studied for the ministry. While visiting Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, in 1915, he met, courted and married the soloist of the Newport Road Baptist Church — Florence May Cranston. Mrs. Robertson, a trained and lovely singer, came from a fine Christian home. Her mother had been converted during the campaigns of Dwight L. Moody in Britain.

The following account of a tent mission at Thornaby-on-Tees in Yorkshire, gives an insight to his early ministry, working under the auspices of the Evangelization Society:- "There has just concluded a most successful tent mission. Night after night the congregations have steadily increased until the tent has been filled. The missioner, W.M. Robertson, has

*Rev. & Mrs. W.M. Robertson, with John Flora and Marcus.*

been the instrument in God's hands of untold blessing to multitudes. Apart from those who quite spontaneously responded to the earnest entreaties of the missioner and who got soundly and eternally converted, the revival of true and undefiled religion among God's people has been most marked, and has clearly demonstrated that it is the declaration of the grand old Gospel of salvation by the grace of God and the atonement of His beloved Son, that wins its way to the hearts of men and women, and lifts them from nature's darkness and death to divine light and life.

Mr. Robertson, too, has been a means of drawing the various sections of the Christian community together as we never remember before. The first Saturday evening Bible talk was truly a great time, when Mr. Robertson dealt with, "The Four Judgments", inviting questions afterwards; the many real expressions of delight from members of all churches being the best tokens of appreciation of this scriptural talk. The climax was reached when he dealt with "Millenial Dawn" and from God's Word effectively refuted its arguments."

His first pastorate was a Baptist Church in Hawick on the Teviot river in the extreme south of Scotland. In 1919 the large Toxteth Tabernacle in Liverpool called Mr. Robertson to be its pastor. There he proved himself to be a powerful preacher, a strong fundamentalist, fearless in his manner of dealing with controversial subjects. After a most successful ministry of eight years, during which the whole congregation was renewed and re-invigorated, Mr. Robertson accepted a pastorate in Vancouver and sailed for Canada in August, 1927.

During his ministry in Britain he conducted numerous campaigns, and was particularly popular at the Advent Testimony platform. He travelled to Australia, New Zealand and the United States, preaching in many evangelical churches. Of interest are the words of F.B. Meyer, Christ Church, London. "We were all startled to learn that you are about to leave for America to take up your work there. You will leave quite a wide gap behind, and we shall miss your strong, noble advocacy very much. I send you thanks, greetings and God speed."

## II. Opening Years Of The Tabernacle

Arriving in Vancouver at the close of summer in 1927, Mr. Robertson became the Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Preaching to packed congregations, he strongly proclaimed the fundamental faith, and attacked the many "cults and isms". However, serious difficulties between Mr. Robertson and the church officials caused him to resign and form an independent work in the summer of 1928.

In this new venture Mr. Robertson was encouraged by many ardent supporters. The first services were held in the Broadway Theatre, at the corner of Main Street and Broadway, on Sunday, July 15, 1928. Large crowds attended and the new venture prospered with great enthusiasm.

Early organizing meetings were held on July 12 and 17, 1928, in the Belvedere Court. Present at these meetings were the following: (Those with an asterik were to act as a church council).

| | |
|---|---|
| James Brechin | J.W. Knight |
| George Bowman | *C.A. Maddison |
| *E.J. Cosens | A.E. Musto |
| *E.E. Crandall | *A.M. Neilson |
| E. Dennis | George Perry |
| *A.C. Hampton | *Alex Reid |
| *A.R. Jenion | J.C. Rollston |
| *B. Julian | *W.M. Robertson |
| J.H. Kerr | *W.G. Shears |
| *T. Kitley | *George Weatherly |

It was decided at these meetings to call the new church "The Metropolitan Tabernacle" after C.H. Spurgeon's famous work in London. It was also agreed unanimously that Mr. Robertson become Pastor. There would be Young People's Meetings on Mondays, Prayer Meetings on Wednesdays, Bible Lectures on Fridays. These would be held in the Free Methodist Church on Tenth Avenue near Main Street.

The first business meeting of the church was held in the Free Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 5, 1928. A doctrinal statement, which had been passed at the Sunday services, was again read by Mr. Shears and adopted. A constitution was also accepted and the church was to be incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act.

On the following November it was agreed to use boxes for Missionary giving, these to be opened twice yearly. Also, the building committee recommended "that the house and lot, 114 feet by 132 feet, situated on the north-east corner of Columbia Street and 11th Avenue, priced at $8,500.00 was the best site for the new church, and furthermore that after more enquiries they were able to get the price reduced to $8,000.00 including the furniture." This motion was adopted. On another motion it was decided to have quarterly business meetings instead of monthly ones.

Here are some other motions of interest during the pre-building era:

**April 10, 1929** (Nelson, Spain) "The building plans submitted by Architects, Bowman and Cullerne, be accepted."

**December 27, 1929** (Brechin, Maddison) "The number of the diaconate be fifteen members, elected for terms of three, two and one year respectively according to vote. First five, three years; second five, two years; third five, one year. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer to be elected from the diaconate."

**Sept. 3, 1930** (Cosens, Maddison) "Whereas the Attorney General of the Province has publicly stated that the operation of miniature golf courses and other places of amusement for profit on Sunday is a flagrant violation of the Lord's Day Act of Canada, Be It Hereby Resolved that this meeting of members and adherents of the Metropolitan Tabernacle do call upon the Chief Constable of this City to take immediate steps to enforce the law in respect to these places." A copy of the above to be sent to the Chief of Police and to Mayor W.H. Malkin.

**February 18, 1931** (Nelson, Hawes) "The Metropolitan Tabernacle apply for affiliation to the Independent Fundamental Churches of America." Standing vote carried practically unanimous.

**May 27, 1931** (1) A letter was read from the I.F.C.A. accepting the application for membership.

(2) A recommendation from the Deacons' Board "That the Chairman of the Building Committee, and the Church Secretary be authorized to sign the Building Contract" was granted.

(3) It was unanimous that a letter of thanks be sent to the two donators of $10,000.00.

(4) (Cosens, Neilsen) "The church do not incur any mortgage on the new building." Carried unanimous.

At the following quarterly business meeting on November 4, 1931, the constitution was amended and the following clause inserted: "The borrowing of money by loan, mortgage or promissory notes is prohibited — all money required to be raised by voluntary subscriptions." This has been church policy ever since.

*CORNER STONE CEREMONY — Left to Right: E.W. Falls; W.G. Shears, Secretary; J.H. Bowman; Rev. W.M. Robertson; Sitting: J.C. Rollston.*

### III. The New Building

The building committee never imagined when they purchased the property at 11th Avenue and Columbia Street for their new building that a world wide depression would commence during the following year. It was not long before many members and adherents, who had promised generous donations for the new building, found themselves unemployed. Indeed it was found necessary to establish a fund for the destitute in the congregation. To illustrate this is the following motion at the quarterly meeting of May 4, 1932: "During the pastor's absence, three deacons to be appointed to dispense the Poor Fund."

Yet the church kept its enthusiasm high and its support strong for the new building. Consequently, to the joy and delight of all, the Tabernacle was opened on January 3, 1932. Three services were held on Sunday with a mass rally in the afternoon and a baptismal service in the evening. Then there was a special meeting each night of the week including Saturday! The guest preachers were: Rev. G.H. Harber, Collingwood Regular Baptist; Rev. J.E. Harris, South Hill Baptist; Rev. Frank Dickie and Rev. C.H. Judd, China Inland Mission; Rev. A.E.M. Danks, Broadway West Regular Baptist.

The members of the Board were:

W. Barker
W.H. Brotherton
E.H. Cosens
W.S. Colwell
O.G. Hawes
G.V. Jones
T. Kitley
J.W. Knight
C.A. Maddison
W.J. McLeese
A.M. Neilsen
F. Nelson
Alex Reid
W.G. Shears
E. Woodrow

## IV. Through The Years

The work of the Tabernacle progressed greatly during the years that followed its opening. From a membership of 354 in 1932 it grew to 633 in 1943. During the war years over fifty members enlisted in the armed forces besides the many adherents whose names and number are not given. The Pastor continued his energetic uncompromising ministry. The Sunday morning service was broadcast and reached many in the Lower Mainland and others in surprisingly distant places. His Scottish accent was familiar to so many and his viewpoint, accepted or not, could not be ignored. For two years he was President of the I.F.C.A. for which he coined the name, "I Find Christ Adequate".

Among the many preachers visiting the Tabernacle in the early years were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Dr. P.W. Philpott | Dr. R.T. Brumbaugh |
| Dr. Isaac Page | Dr. McKee |
| Dr. W.E. Pietsch | Rev. Robert Harkness |
| Dr. Oswald Smith | Rev. L.E. Maxwell |
| Rev. Andrew Gih | Rev. Edwin Orr |
| Dr. N.A. Jepson | Dr. R.G. Barnhouse |
| Dr. Wm. Lamb | Rev. Ezra Gerig |
| Col. F.J. Miles | Dr. Louis Talbot |
| Dr. Northcote Deck | Dr. Wm. Scroggie |
| Dr. Harvey Farmer | Dr. Harris Gregg |
| Rev. Forrest Johnson | Dr. W. Graham Scroggie |
| Rev. Chas. Fuller | Prof. E.T. Tindley |
| Dr. Herbert Lockyer | R.G. Le Tourneau |
| Dr. H. Appelman | Dr. Will Houghton |
| Dr. W. Kallenbach | Dr. Muntz |
| Dr. Wade C. Smith | Dr. T.A. Lambie |

On August 4, 1953, Mrs. Robertson died much to the grief and sorrow of the family and congregation. Since the inception of the work she had given of herself in so many aspects. For sixteen years she had been in charge of the choir; a gifted soloist — she sang on many occasions; she was President of the Women's Missionary Society; and she was in charge of the Sunday School Cradle Roll. With her husband she visited the sick; she was "given to hospitality"; and she left behind a fragrant memory.

In December, 1961, while conducting the midweek Prayer Meeting, and preaching on the text, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.", Mr. Robertson suffered a stroke. He resigned from his ministry in June, 1962, and became Pastor Emeritus. He died on March 24, 1965, at the age of eighty-two. He left behind his wife, Alice, whom he married in 1955; his daughter, Flora (Mrs. J. Howie); and his two sons — John and Marcus. He also left behind the memory of a Christian leader with an outstanding testimony and a strong witness to the Gospel. He often quoted the following:

"Praise the Saviour, ye who know Him; who can tell how much we owe Him?

Gladly let us render to Him, all we are and have.

Then we shall be where we would be, then we shall be what we should be;

Things which are not now, nor could be; then shall be our own."

## V. Times Of Change

During the illness of Mr. Robertson many ministered in the services. Indeed in his annual report of 1962, Mr. Philip, the Secretary, referred to Psalm 68:11: "The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it." However, after a period of waiting and prayer a unanimous call was extended to Rev. William Clayton of the Regular Baptist Church in Parksville, B.C. Upon being assured of the Lord's will in this matter, Mr. Clayton accepted and became the Pastor in September, 1963.

Since then Mr. and Mrs. Clayton have worked faithfully with great blessing to the congregation. Their influence has been felt in all departments. Mr. Clayton has maintained a strong testimony in preaching the Word of Life. Great prominence has been given to work among the Young People and children. Much emphasis also has been placed on the need for active prayer meetings — the secret of real blessing.

The Tabernacle building has been kept in an attractive and useful condition. Alterations have been, and are still being made, both to the main auditorium and to the downstairs assembly rooms. From time to time, thought has been giving to moving to another site, but the congregation has continued to prefer the present location.

In many ways the Metropolitan Tabernacle is much the same as when it was formed. There is the strong emphasis on soul-winning, Bible teaching, and missionary witness. The pattern of former years is evident in the services and, while necessary changes are made to better meet the needs of the present congregation and modern times, the purpose of the church is the same —

**"Holding Forth The Word Of Life"**

THE BOARD OF DEACONS 1978

| | |
|---|---|
| Wayne Callaghan | Alistair Montgomery |
| Howard Cowper | R.D. Newcombe |
| Brian Grey | D.S. Parker |
| W.F. Hartin | R.E. Parks |
| J.E. Hollingshead | D.J. Philip |

* * * *

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman | W.F.HARTIN |
| Church Treasurer | HOWARD COWPER |
| Church Secretary | J.E. HOLLINGSHEAD |
| Deaconess | MISS E.M. GILMOUR |

## VI. Facets Of The Work

### Sunday School

The Sunday School has been a strong and integral part of the work of the Tabernacle. It was organized on July 18, 1828, at the home of Mrs. D.A. Tibbott. At that meeting, Mr. W.G. Shears was appointed Superintendent and Miss Edith Dadson, Secretary.

In the early years it was held after the morning church service from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. This time encouraged the Young People's and Adult classes as most of them just came downstairs from the church service. In 1938 the time was altered to 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. This resulted in a noticeable increase in attendance of younger scholars and a decrease in that of the older!

The Sunday School conducted very successful Friday night "Lantern Hours" for the children. The large Sunday School room would be filled with over two hundred enthusiastic boys and girls.

The use of buses greatly assisted the Sunday School work. The first bus was purchased in 1947 by a member of the Board, Mr. W. Ross. Since then the School has either owned or rented buses; at present it possesses two. Early bus drivers were Ellsworth Troop, John Low, Dennis Clark, Mike Lapka, Arthur Bryant and Eddie Grenik. A worthy record has been made by Mr. Bryant who started driving a bus in 1952 and is still doing so!

Through the years the following have acted as Superintendent:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1928 - 1933 | Mr. Walter G. Shears |
| 1933 - 1934 | Mr. R.D. Cameron |
| 1934 - 1938 | Mr. Donald M. Fraser |
| 1938 - 1939 | Mr. Eric L. Phare |
| 1939 - 1967 | Mr. James R. Wilson |
| 1967 - 1968 | Mr. Douglas Bennett |
| 1968 - 1973 | Mr. Alistair Montgomery |
| 1973 - 1976 | Mr. Ren Newcombe |
| 1976 - | Mr. Douglas Bennett |

### Young People

From the very first a strong Young Peoples group has been active. In the early years it was known as the Christian Band and met regularly on Mondays at 8 p.m. In 1933, Merle Steele, Secretary, reported: "Forty-six meetings have been held during the year with an average attendance of sixty-two. Several of the members were engaged in mission work this summer under the Sunday School Mission of B.C. Members at Bible School were: Bob Young, Colin Buckley, Norman Simpson at Three Hills; Arthur Barber at Columbian College, South Carolina; Miriam Coone, Fred Woodrow, Ivy Pepper at Vancouver Bible School. Meetings were held each month at the Central City Mission, the Men's Institute and other missions. Open Air Meetings were engaged in each Saturday and Sunday evening."

Early Presidents of the work were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Oswald Smith | Gordon Singer |
| Ethel McGaw | Marcus Robertson |
| Harold Davies | Ted Williams |
| Bob Young | Doug Bennett |
| J. Phillifant | Isobel Low |
| R. McPhedron | Ren Newcombe |
| Alf Barber | Lorne Poersch |
| Jimmy Wilson | |

### Branch Works

Much profitable activity was involved in branch Sunday Schools through the years. At the very

beginning a number of young people conducted classes at Silverdale. This continued until 1936, with Mr. Harold Davies taking a leading part. A similar work was carried on intermittently at White Rock until an independent church was formed in 1943. One of the leaders here was Mr. William Riddoch.

A very fine work commenced in 1936 when the Cambie Mission was taken over from the Regular Baptist Convention. A new building was opened on 8th Avenue in 1947 at a cost of over $3,000.00. A thriving Sunday School and active Women's Meetings were conducted until it was sold in 1955. Among those in charge of this work were: Mrs. Richmond, Mrs. Winstanley, Mrs. Alger, Miss Mary Major; Gordon Singer, Arnold Essler, George Elliott, and F.J. Stade.

A similar activity was carried on at Riverway when the Mission building on Marine Drive near Patterson was purchased from the B.C. Baptist Convention in 1940 for $250.00. There a morning service and afternoon Sunday School were profitably conducted until the Regular Baptist Convention took it over in 1960. Among those taking a leading part were: Elsie Lamb, F. Wilton, W. Riddoch, Ross McPhedran, Robert Young, Claude Scott, Alex Low, Dennis Clark, Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Stade.

One of the most widely supported and fruitful branches was at Poplar. In 1938 a church and missionary home were built on an acre of land at a cost of $1,100.00! The first resident missionary was Esther Freeman (Mrs. Allyn Cooke) who was stationed there until she left for the China Inland Mission training school in 1939, when Miss Mary Major took over. There were four groups of six young people including a speaker, which went out once a month. They conducted Sunday School in the afternoon and then an evening service. On those months with five Sundays, the Pastor went out and conducted an afternoon service on Sunday No. 5. On these occasions the church would invariably be filled with people from every town and village — and farm — in the district. Due to gasoline restrictions and transportation difficulties caused by the War, the Poplar work had to be discontinued. (It was sold for $1,710.00). Finally, mention shoud be made of the faithful Sunday School work in Richmond carried on by Ren Newcombe and Dave Smith in the 1950's.

**Bible Class**

From the beginning of the work this group has been active, meeting since the church opening at the front of the auditorium for consistently faithful and able Bible teaching. A feature of the class has been its generous support of both home and foreign missions. In 1947 total receipts were $464.70 and from this $315.00 went to missions; in 1977 receipts were $3,035.65 and $2,978.20 went to missions.

The following fine teachers have served this class: H.F. Brown, Eric Phare, Jas. Brechin, John McPherson, C.H. Judd, Stafford A. Cox. Mr. Cox taught the class with outstanding ability from 1948 until he left due to illness in 1972.

Presidents of the class have been: A.E. Skinner, F. Nelson, J.W. Freeman, A.W. Barber, Oswald Smith, Louis McPherson, A.J. Ryall, Tom Stewart and the present incumbent, Mr. Tom Braidwood, who has held the position since 1955.

*Mr. & Mrs. Cox*

**Women's Monthly Meeting**

These are held monthly and are addressed by speakers representing missions at home and abroad. Mrs. W.M. Robertson was the President from its inception until her death in 1953. Mrs. James Pirie was also the Secretary during those years.

**Church Missionaries**

Rev. W.M. Robertson wrote in 1936, "Believing that a church which ceases to be missionary-hearted ceases to be Christian, we seek to foster prayerful and practical interest in the work in the Regions Beyond. Last year, over thirty different faith missions received contributions for their support, and we have now listed the Sunday School Mission of B.C. to also receive allocation of our missionary box money."

Through the years some twenty-five missionaries have left with the blessing and support of the Tabernacle in obedience to the Great Commission.

Practically all of the missionaries that have been supported by the church are now listed with the approximate dates of their support:

Rev. & Mrs. Colin Buckley —
Africa, 1935 - 1972.

Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Winstanley —
South America, 1936 to the present.

Rev. Arthur Barber —
China, 1938 - 1940.

*Rev. Albert Nielsen
Africa, 1939 - 1945.

Rev. & Mrs. Allyn Cook —
China, Thailand, 1940 - 1964.

Rev. & Mrs. Fred Woodrow —
Castlegar, Three Hills, 1945.
(Mr. Woodrow is still at P.B.I. Three Hills).

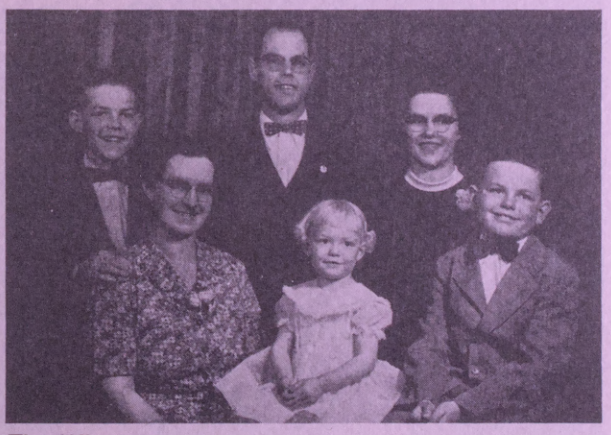
Miss Iris Phillips —
Africa, 1948 - 1960.

*The Buckleys with friends.*

*Miss Iris Philips*

*Arthur Barber*

*Mr. & Mrs. Fred Woodrow*



*The Winstanleys.*

Rev. & Mrs. Art Linsey —
Saskatchewan, 1947 - 1970.

Miss Lillian Lougheed —
India, 1948 - 1953.

Miss Lillian Doerksen —
India, 1951 to the present.

Miss Evelyn Rorison —
Africa, 1952 to the present.

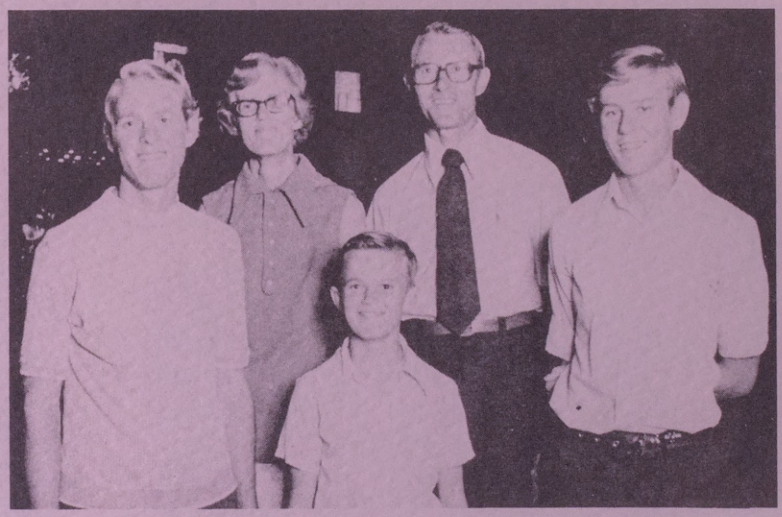
Mrs. Daryl Eddy —
Thailand, 1953 - 1963.

Rev. & Mrs. Orland Rowan —
South America, 1957 to the present.

Mrs. Carl Friedrich —
Panama, 1957 - 1958.

Rev. & Mrs. Ed. Ratzliff —
Africa, 1964 - 1976.

*The Cooks in costume.*



*Orland & Phyllis Rowan.*

*Miss Evelyn Rorison.*

*Mrs. Daryl Eddy.*

*Miss Lil Doerksen.*

Mrs. Blanche Orr —
Alberta, 1967; Africa, 1973.
(At present with Gospel Recordings).

Miss Margaret Barker —
Alberta, 1967 to the present.

Rev. & Mrs. J. Koning —
Canada, 1967; Holland 1974 to the present.

Miss Kay Mitchell —
Pioneer Girls, Ontario, 1968 - 1975.

Rev. & Mrs. Robt. Ratzliff —
Africa, 1968 - 1976.

Miss Olga Klemionek —
Europe, 1971 - 1974.

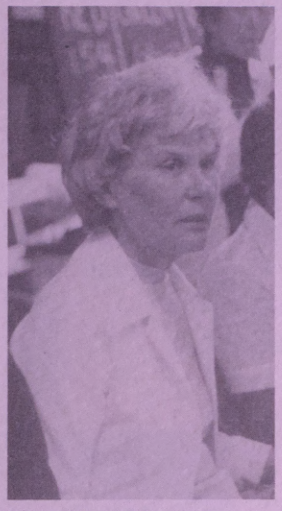
Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Mitchell —
Africa, 1974 to the present.

Miss Lillian Cairns —
Africa, 1975 to the present.

Miss Verna Aspray —
Thailand, 1975 to the present.

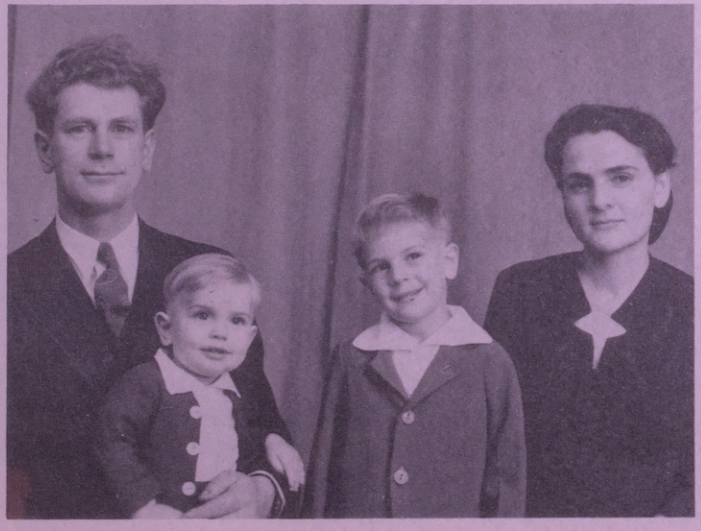
*Photo not available.

*Mrs. Blanche Orr.*



*Miss Kay Mitchell.*

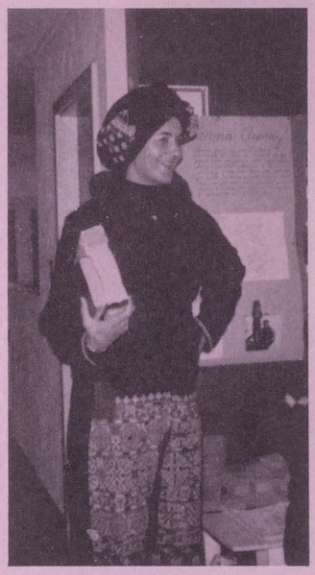
*Miss Margaret Barker.*



*The Ratzliffs (Senior)*

*The Konings.*

*Miss Lillian Cairns.*



*Miss Verna Aspray (in costume)*

*Olga Winstanley (Klemionek).*

*The Mitchells.*

*Bob and Margaret Ratzliff*

*Mr. & Mrs. Friedrich.*

As our beloved missionary, the late Colin Buckley, said in 1975, "So let us not forget to bear them all up in our daily prayer, as they serve the Lord in different parts of the world."

### Deaconess

In April, 1938, Miss Margaret McBride was chosen for this position and she carried on a much valued ministration among the sick and shut-in friends. She became the President of the Women's Missionary Meeting in 1953. After twenty-five years of dedicated service she resigned in 1963 for reasons of health. She was succeeded in the fall of 1971 by Miss Elizabeth Gilmour who continues this fine ministry.

*Deaconess Miss McBride*
*with Mrs. Cox, left, Mrs. McKay, right.*

### Choir and Organ

The first organist in the services at the theatre in 1928 was Mr. Baron. He was followed by Mr. E.G. Woodrow who became the pianist in the new Tabernacle until 1936, when he was succeeded by Mrs. Wally Jenion.

In November 1936, a number of the Board members visited the Colonial Theatre where the pipe organ was for sale, to hear it played. They were most impressed with the quality of the organ, and they persuaded the rest of the Board and the Congregation to purchase it for $2,900.00.

Mrs. Jenion continued as organist until 1939, when the present incumbent, Mr. John A. Robertson, was appointed. In the early 1950's Mrs. Don Newcombe became Assistant Organist, and both have contributed so much to the music of the church.

At the theatre, Mr. E.J. Cosens conducted a men's choir which sang from time to time. He became choir leader in the new Tabernacle and continued until 1934. He was followed by Mrs. W.M. Robertson who carried on faithfully until her death in 1953. Then John Robertson assumed the responsibility until 1971. Since then Dr. & Mrs. Fred Zarfas, followed by Miss Lily-May Jones have conducted the choir.

### Ushers and Workers

All through the years great credit has been due to loyal ushers who have welcomed us all so cheerfully and have done so much to help in the services. The chairmen of the ushers have been: A.E. Musto, George V. Jones, and Clarence Grantham who served from 1938 until the 1970's.

Mention should also be made of those ladies who have arranged the flowers so attractively, Sunday by Sunday. Some of these ladies are: Mrs. W.S. Colwell, Mrs. C.A. Maddison, Mrs. J. Phillifant, Mrs. Fred Drane, Mrs. Merle Livingstone, Mrs. T. Braidwood, Mrs. Dorothy Newcombe.

Many fine members have performed the custodial duties of the church. The following should be mentioned: Mr. C.A. Maddison, Mr. W.T. Johns, Mr. & Mrs. G. Ferguson, Mr. D. McLean, Mr. W. Loch, Mr. & Mrs. Friesen, Mr. J. Nicholson.

### Radio Ministry

Rev. W.M. Robertson was quick to realize the value of radio in expanding the outreach of his ministry. In 1933 he arranged with CKWX to broadcast the morning service from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30. In April, 1936, this broadcast was shifted to CJOR in order to reach a wider area. In 1963, CJOR terminated the broadcast as it was reducing its religious programs. Since then the Tabernacle radio broadcasts have expanded. The morning service is still broadcast live, but now over CJJC, Langley. Other broadcasts are over CHUB, Nanaimo, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. and over KARI, Blaine, 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Forty-five years of continual broadcasting by one church is surely a fine record! Throughout these years not only has the financial support been adequate but of far more importance has been the real work accomplished for the Lord through this medium.